GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1219
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Farm and Non-farm Workers
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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage and absolute number of farm and non-farm workers in India currently;

(b) whether this number changed from 2000-2001 and the details thereof;

(c) whether the decadal change in the number and percentage of farm and non-farm workers calculated by NSSO and Census showed diametrically opposite results;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(e) if not, the actual figures in this regard; and

(f) the State-wise farm and non-farm workers and percentage of each category in the last three periods of data collected?

Answer

MINISTER FOR STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA]

(a) & (b): National Sample Survey (NSS) on Employment & Unemployment and the Population Census capture information on workers in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. For the purpose of calculating decadal change, estimates of workers are available from NSS on Employment & Unemployment conducted during 1999-2000 and 2011-2012. Estimates of workers in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors based on NSS 1999-2000 and NSS 2011-2012 and decadal changes therein are given below:

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Period Number (in '00) Percentage
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agriculture non-agriculture agriculture non-agriculture

1999-2000 22,55,679 13,98,00 61.7 38.3
2011-2012 20,56,222 21,48,289 48.9 51.1
Change -1,99,457 7,50,229 -12.8 12.8

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Last two Population Censuses have been conducted during the years 2001 and 2011. Details of workers in Agricultural (cultivators & agricultural labourers) and non-agricultural sectors as per above Censuses are as under:

Period Number (in '00) Percentage
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agriculture non-agriculture agriculture non-agriculture

2001 23,40,882 16,81,465 58.2 41.8
2011 26,31,425 21,87,464 54.6 45.4
Change 2,90,543 5,05,999 -3.6 3.6

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(c) to (e): Definitions and estimates of worker from the National Sample Survey (NSS) and the Population Census are methodologically different and therefore, are not comparable. As against sample approach in NSS, the Population Census follows the approach of complete enumeration. In addition, other major reasons, for which results of NSSO surveys and Census figures are not comparable, are given in the Statement at Annexure I.

(f): NSSO present results of its employment and unemployment surveys as per 1000 distribution of workers, labour force, etc. The State-wise distribution of workers in Agriculture and non-Agriculture sectors based on last three employment and unemployment surveys of NSSO are given in Statement at Annexure II.